THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, April 17, 1809.

Account of the Embassy of Louis de Bourbon, Count de Vendosme, Jacques Jouvenel Des Ursins, Archbishop of Rheims, and Others, to Henry VI. King of England.

[From a MS. in the National Library at Paris, marked 8448, by M. Galliard; now first published in England.]

AT the epoch of the negociation, of which we are about to treat, Charles VII. reigned in France, and Henry VI. in England; the English, after a long time, lost in France all the conquests which Henry V. and the duke of Bedford had made there. The two nations were fatigued with war, and their minds were disposed to accommodation. Henry VI. nephew of Charles VII. had the same affection for him and France, which Richard II. his great uncle, according to the British mode, had had for Charles VI. maternal grandfather of Henry. Conferences for peace were perpetually held; sometimes at Arras, sometimes between Calais and Gravelines, sometimes at Tours. The ascendancy which the factions in France had hitherto given to the English, whether in arms or council, declined every day. The same factions then reigned in the English regency. The duke of Gloucester, the king's uncle, and the cardinal of Winchester, his great uncle, son of the duke of Lancaster, father of Henry IV. were quarrelling for supremacy; and each accused the other several times of treason in various parliaments. These civil discords had the most sensible influence upon continental affairs. The cardinal and the duke were divided in opinion upon public business, as well as upon the private views of ambition. The duke of Gloucester desired only war, and what he called the glory of the English name. The cardinal was for France and peace.

The duke had wished to unite Henry with a daughter of the Comte d'Armagnac; the cardinal had concluded in 1444, the year preceding, at the conferences of Tours, the marriage with Margaret of Anjou, daughter of René, duc d'Anjou, and king of Sicily. In favour of this match England, in lieu of demanding a dower, had yielded the province of Maine to Charles d'Anjou, uncle of the princess. Margaret never pardoned the opposition of the duke of Gloucester to the marriage; and landed in England, an enemy to that prince, and patroness of the party of the cardinal. The young Suffolk, whom the cardinal had used to negociate this marriage, became the queen's favourite, and she loaded him with such acts of kindness, as to bring some stain upon her character. Henry was despotically governed by her; no other power was known than that of Margaret; she occupied Henry with a pusillanimous devotion, while he gave up the reins of government to her. Upon the whole, Henry was a prince of weak mind, and Margaret a woman of strong character; her courage and her pride destined her to great faults, great misfortunes, and great resources. The party of the queen and Suffolk was called in England the French party. Margaret, in truth, appeared to be always attached to the interests of France, her country; and the duke of Suffolk, in order to please her, went sometimes so far as to betray his own; for which, in the end, he was ruined; but at the time of the embassy he was in the zenith of favour.

At the conferences of Tours, they could only agree upon a truce; the object of the embassy was, if possible, to convert this truce into a lasting peace.

Four of the ambassadors arrived at Calais, July 2, 1445, and went the next day to Dover. On the 8th they all united at Canterbury, and made their entry into London upon the 14th. At about a league from the metropolis, says the MS. came the earls of Suffolk, Dorset, Salisbury, and many others, all of whom greeted the ambassadors personally and pleasantly, and escorted them by London Bridge to their quarters. Upon the bridge were the mayor and citizens, all robed in scarlet, furred with martin-fur, about 60 in number. Before the mayor a man held a gilt sword; afterwards along the streets, were stationed the trades, each dressed alike, and many people to see them enter.

On the 15th, the ambassadors were admitted to an audience of the king, and found him on a high sallette [a little hall. *Cotgr.*] without a bed, hung with blue tapestry, diapred with the livery of the late king, i. e. to say with broom plants, and his motto, *Jamais*, worked in gold; and throne of tapestry, of ladies, who were presenting to a lord the arms of France; it was all worked upon gold, very rich, and a high chair stood under

under the said throne, covered even to the ground with a vermillion cloth of gold.

[Here M. Galliard, Frenchman like, (for there cannot be a doubt, but Clarke's Naval Tactics will one day be affirmed to be a plagiarism from the French!) digresses to shew, that the broom-plants were borrowed from the order of the geniste in France, and adopted by Henry V. when he took the title of the king of France; whereas every body knows, that this was the cognizance and Plantagenet *(Plantagenistæ)*, the name of our kings from Henry II.—" Menestrier (adds M. G.) is right in making the word *Jamais*, James, being a word in the order."—So much for French criticism upon English affairs. The order was not founded 'till long after the death of our Henry II. not 'till 1234! The throne and audience chamber of Henry VI. are engraved by Strutt. Dresses, Pl. cxv. Translator.]

Henry, proceeds the MS. received the French ambassador with every mark of distinction; and as soon as the comte de Vendosme and the archbishop of Rheims, who were the first, entered into the chamber, and the king saw them, he descended, and, standing upright before his throne, there waited for the said ambassadors, *et toucha tous ceux du roi bien humblement*,* in taking off his hood a little to the count and archbishop.

The count presented the letters, and the archbishop *porta la parole*,† took up the word, and spoke in French, announcing the rank of each of the ambassadors. He observed, that the comte de Laval was nephew by affinity of the king of France, and cousin german by affinity of the king of England.

[Here M. Galliard adds the pedigree.]

The king had by him at this audience the cardinal of York, and the chancellor archbishop of Canterbury, both creatures of the cardinal of Winchester and the duke of Suffolk; these were on his right. At his left were the duke of Gloucester and some others.

The instructions and discourse of the French ambassadors breathed nothing but peace and amity; and on hearing these words, the king of England made a very fine aspect ‡ of being exceedingly contented and rejoiced, and especially when they spoke of the king his uncle, and the love which he had for him, his heart seemed to leap for joy—*il sembloit que le cueur lui rist*. At his window was Monsieur de Glocestre, whom he looked at occasionally, and then turning to his right, to the

* The translator is not certain as to the sense of this passage.

† It is contrary to modern etiquette to speak first to the king, but ambassadors may be privileged.

‡ Tres bel semblant.

chancellor, duke of Suffolk, and cardinal of York, who were there, smiled upon them, and seemed to make a sign. He was observed even to squeeze the hand of the chancellor, and was overheard saying in English, " I am extremely glad that some people, who are present, hear these words; they are not at their ease."

The chancellor of England replied also, in the name of his master, with some words of peace and amity; nevertheless the king complained to him, in English, that he had not said enough. And the king came to the ambassadors, and, putting his hand to his hood, and lifting it from his head, cried two or three times, *Saint Jehan, grand mercy! Saint Jehan, grand mercy!*—i. e. " Thank you Saint John! Thank you, Saint John!"—and clapped them on the back, and made many very joyful gestures, and bid the comte de Suffolk tell them, that he did not consider them as strangers; and that they should make the same use of his house as that of the king his uncle, and come and go at all hours, the same as in the house of that king.

On the 16th they returned to the king's audience chambers, and, while waiting, conversed with the comte de Suffolk, as the MS. Frenchifies the English title. He said to them, purposely loud enough for every body to hear,—*Et si avoit " la plusieurs;* princes and seigneurs—that he wished them all to know, that he was the servant of the king of France, and that, except the person of the king of England, his master, he would serve him with person and property against all the world; and added—I say, except my master, his person; I do not speak of the lords, and do not except neither the dauphin nor Gloucester, nor any others, beyond his person; and he repeated these words three or four times over, each time in a louder tone of voice, saying, that he knew well, that his master wished the same, and that the king of France was the person whom his master loved best in the whole world, next to his wife. He added, that he desired such great honour and good to the king of France; that he wished every one to know, that he would serve him towards all and against all, except the person of his said master."

[From this silly speech, it appears that Suffolk was a very weak man; and with such counsellors the misfortunes of Henry are not surprising.]

In this second audience they talked of business and peace, but in a manner superficial and fitted to the bounden capacity of the king. They talked more of peace in general, than of the methods of making it. They said, that since the two kings were such friends! " cursed be he who should advise them to have war together!" to which every one present replied, Amen. It was also said, that the two kings could better than any person

son terminate their differences by an interview; and Monsieur de Suffolk said, quite loud, that when he was in France, it was rumoured, that Monsieur de Glocestre hindered the king, and that the king offered to come in person to aid the affair; but that the said Sieur de Suffolk answered that he did not believe it *(sic)*, and that Monsieur de Glocestre did not wish him to do it, and thus he had not the power; and at another time said, quite loud, that the second person in the world whom the king loved best, was the king his uncle; and the king answered, "Saint John, yes!" many times in English.

(To be concluded in our next.)

THE LETTER-BOX.

No. 68.

TO THE EDITOR.

"A second* part of the same tune."

SUPERSTITION has, in all ages of the world, been supported by ignorance on the one side, and artifice on the other; and if any preference is to be given to the ancient or modern oracles, those of antiquity undoubtedly claim it. Their answers almost invariably contained a twofold meaning, which betrayed a vast deal of ingenuity; insomuch that whatever occurred in consequence of their advice, they found (to use a trite expression) some hole to creep out at. Our moderns, on the contrary, deal entirely in ignorant assertions, for which they deserve no other merit or reward, than—*a horse-whipping!*

I admire the answer which, according to Ausonius, Jupiter Ammon (the oracular statue, I presume) gave to three quærists. Being asked by a wrestler, a boxer, and a runner, if each would obtain a prize in the Olympic games, he utters this true and laughable answer—"The wrestler will be victorious, if he does not get a fall; the boxer, if no stouter man attacks him; and the runner, if his antagonist does not outstrip him in speed." "These are things," remarks Charpentier, "which, from the obviousness of their truth, provoke, on being repeated, a smile from every one." And this is certainly one of them.

Were I to ransack the memorials of popish superstition, I might easily fill a dozen Entertainers with incredible impositions, practised by the brotherhood on the ignorant and unwary. At present, one must suffice.

A

* Vide page 261.

A priest, in a village in Spain, had a garden, the wall of which was contiguous to an altar, on which was placed a crucifix that leaned against the wall. He contrived, at the time the vine was dropping, to introduce a sprig of it into each of the eyes of the crucifix, by means of a hole made through the adjoining wall; by which contrivance the statue appeared to shed tears, But when the vine ceased to drop, the stratagem was carried on by means of oil. Many superstitious persons crowded to see this prodigy, to which sight they were admitted on paying a certain sum. The trick was for some time very lucrative. At length it was discovered; and the priest, (with forty other accomplices,) was executed in the adjacent town.

It requires not the wisdom of a Solomon to prove, that both *conjurors* and *conjurees*, (or *the conjured)* are equally wicked. The *first* pretend to obtain a mysterious knowledge (either from the Almighty, or from Satan) of every thing that is to take place in our future progress through life—neither of which can possibly be the case. And the *latter*, by giving credit to such horrid pretensions, countenance the iniquitous practices of the pretenders, and shew (at the same time) what a mistaken notion they themselves entertain of the wisdom of Omnipotence.

Alas! purblind mortals, that we are! How anxiously do we interest ourselves in every thing that concerns this poor transitory life! With what avidity do we grasp at its nugatory possessions—forgetting and neglecting all provisions for *eternity!* Oh! well will it be for us, if in perusing the book of *true knowledge*, (the blessed *gospel of salvation)* we clearly read our title in the skies! In a few fleeting days, we shall all mingle with our native dust; and then the things of *this* world will be for ever hid from us. Oh ponder on this awful truth, ye sons of riot and debauchery! Ponder on it, ye frivolous votaries of fashion! Let the beginning of the new year stimulate you to exertion; but trust not to the strength of your *resolutions* alone, for I know, from experience, that strong and good as our resolves may be, they are of no account, unless strengthened and confirmed by the influence of the Holy Spirit, whom we should frequently and fervently seek in prayer. This may, in some degree, be deemed a digression, but I shall make no apology for it.

" On this side, and on that, men see their friends
Drop off, like leaves in autumn; yet launch out
Into fantastic schemes, which the long livers
In the world's hale and undegen'rate days
Could scarce have leisure for; fools that we are!
Never to think of death and of ourselves

At

At the same time! as if to learn to die
Were no concern of our's."

BLAIR.

And now, Mr. Editor, farewell! and, believe me, in whatever light your numerous readers may see my speculations, I pronounce them, without flattery, to be the effusions of a heart, that takes a deep interest in the welfare of mankind. Let those who accuse me of occasional sallies of enthusiasm, sit down quietly to their Bible; and if they do not acquit me of the charge, I am very sorry for them. You'll say I write in a state of great *self-complacency*. Be it so! 'tis a mighty comfortable sensation, and lest I should be deprived of it by writing another sentence, I throw my pen into the fire.

X.

FOR THE LETTER-BOX.

TO ITS AUTHOR.

MY DEAR SIR,

AGREEABLY to your request, I have once more invoked the muse, and as you have generously offered me the page of the Letter-Box for the result of its contemplation, I shall, without further hesitation, forward the editor an elegy on the death of Sir John Moore; the subject which you have thus pointed out to me, must interest the feelings of every reader who is a lover of his country; indeed, who is there that can view the expiring conqueror bleeding in the lap of victory, who is there that can contemplate his immortal spirit hovering over the highest pinnacle of glory, and not feel in his bosom all the mingled sensations of patriotic fervour, of heartfelt sympathy, and ingenuous regret? inspiration dwells upon the subject; let me therefore hasten to it, lest I anticipate ideas which may be useful in another place.

Believe me,
Your's very truly,

B.

AN ELEGY

ON THE DEATH OF SIR JOHN MOORE.

Hail honour'd shade! fond glory's brightest ray!
The task be mine to greet the spirit fled,
To feebly chaunt the tributary lay,
And weep in sorrow o'er th' illustrious dead.

The sculptor's art shall grace the marble pile,
And pillar'd monuments thy conquests tell;
How, like Leonidas, by glory fir'd!
Thy warlike soul on vict'ry's bosom fell.

I'll twine a garland from the laurel'd grove,
And steep its branches in a nation's tear,
(The glorious tribute of thy country's love,)
And spread its honours o'er thy sacred bier.

There shall the breezes of the south wind blow,
And there shall spring her blushing glories wave;
There shall the flow'ret with the breast of snow
Adorn the precincts of the soldier's grave.

There high plum'd vict'ry, in her blood wash'd robe,
Her gory garments round thine urn shall spread,
Exult in sighs! and charge the fragrant gale
To waft its odours o'er the conqu'ror's bed.

There shall Bellona weep her fallen child,
And honour there her trophied bust shall rear;
Mars, the fierce god, shall chaunt a requiem wild,
And sound the clangour of fame's trumpet there.

There fairy fingers shall thy chaplet twine,
There rays of glory shall for ever play;
There shall the tear of sacred beauty shine,
And wet the turf that wraps the soldier's clay.

There shall the genius of thy native isle,
In melting strains her conqu'ror's fall deplore,
With drooping wings o'ershade the awful pile,
And shed fresh honours o'er the tomb of MOORE.

Camborne, March 23, 1809.

Account of the Floating Island, which lately appeared in Derwent Water.

IT has emerged from the bottom of this lake three times in the course of about thirty years; or, according to other accounts, it has been in the habit of repeating its visits after an interval of seven or nine years. It began to emerge on the 20th of July, and, in a very short time, appeared above the surface. It is situated at the head of Keswick lake, about a stone cast from the shore. It contains about an acre of ground, and is quite stationary; at first it was of a dark brown colour,

but soon became covered with verdure. By thrusting a pole in several places to the depth of three yards, the water rushed up; consequently, it is of that thickness, and unconnected with the bottom. That it is also unconnected with the shore is evident, as boats sailed entirely round it, and sounded with long poles without finding a bottom. It is of an oblong shape, and in the middle of it is a large hole about eight yards long, and two broad, evidently made by the confined rarefied air. The depth of soil composing it is, in some parts, two feet, and in others more; and in forcing a stick through it in different places, air arose in large bubbles; and as this confined air escapes, the island, it appears, lessens, and at length sinks by its own weight, to become again the bottom of the lake. Its sides adhere to the neighbouring soil with a steep descent, except at one corner, about six yards in length, which appears like a bank. This bank has actually been the remains of the sides of a hole of a former island; for these temporary islands are found to change their positions at every appearance; and the present one is somewhat nearer the shore than the former ones have been. The plants which form the vegetation are the lobelia dortmanna, the isoetes lacustris, the lettorella lacustris, the arundo fragmites, and the scirpus lacustris.

A secondary island made its appearance about the same time, at some distance from the principal one, and nearer the shore, of a circular form, about eight yards in diameter, and divided completely in two by a rent of about one yard wide, and three yards deep, reaching to a considerable distance on each side of this island, and evidently being one of those numerous cracks which may always be discovered in the bottom of this part of the lake, which I presume is a communication of the waters beneath with those above. The island gradually sunk during some weeks 'till the night of Friday the 7th of October, when, in consequence of rain, the lake rose about five feet, and the island was covered with water. The lake rose about a foot higher on the 7th of August than on the 1st of October, and yet the island was larger in extent, and higher above the water than on the former day.

CHARACTER *of the late* MR. CHARLES FOX.

THIS gentleman, who was formerly a landscape and miniature painter in Bristol, lately paid the debt of nature at Bath. He will long be remembered by his friends, for his mild and unassuming manners, and considerable literary attainments. He was born in the year 1749, at Falmouth, at which place he afterwards kept a bookseller's shop. But the greater part of his property being consumed by fire, he was

induced to follow the bent of his inclination for the art of landscape and portrait painting. The better to qualify himself for his profession, and to divert his mind from the painful recollection of his misfortune, he accompanied his brother, who was the master of a merchant vessel, in a voyage to the Baltic. Impelled by that enthusiasm which is the characteristic of a superior mind, he made a tour, alone and on foot, through Sweden, Norway, and part of Russia, taking views of the wild and sublime scenery which the Norwegian mountains, the kol of Sweden, and the lakes and forests to the north of the Neva, offer to the eye of the enthusiast of nature:

"Pine cover'd rocks,
And mountain forests of eternal shade,
And glens and vales, on whose green quietness
The lingering eye reposes, and fair lakes
That image the light foliage of the beech."

SOUTHEY.

Many of Mr. Fox's acquaintance will remember the pleasure they once felt in beholding these beautiful productions of his pencil, and in hearing him read the manuscript account of his travels. He possessed great facility in the acquirement of languages, and pursued with much success the study of oriental literature. His collection of oriental manuscripts, was a considerable one, and his poems of Hafiz, Sadi, Jami, Auvari, Ferdusi, and others—"Thirazian gardens, prodigal of blooms," would fill several volumes.

About six years ago, he had prepared two volumes of poems from the Persian for the press. But increasing debility of constitution disqualified him for the labour of publication, and he continued to add to the number of his former translations, until within a short period of his death. In a recent letter to the writer of this, he says, "that the many disagreeables of publication are so very opposite to every inducement of writing, that they cast a damp upon each generous mind, and destroy poetic sentiment. For the hapless author has not only to sustain the shock of caustic illiberality on the one hand, but of talents prostituted to the interests of certain booksellers, who require every thing to be depreciated in which they have no copyright, on the other." It is to this opinion of the dangers of authorship, that we may attribute the circumstance of Mr. Fox having written so much, yet published so little.

In 1797, he published a volume of poems, "containing the plaints, consolations, and delights of Achmed Ardebeilli, a Persian exile," which was well received. This work evinces vigour of thought, beauty of expression, and elegance of sentiment.

timent. The notes afford much information on oriental subjects.

In 1792, Mr. Fox married Miss Feniers, the daughter of a Dutch merchant, who survives him. To young persons of a literary taste, he was particularly friendly; his fire-side and instructive conversation ever welcomed them. He encouraged them in their pursuits, directed their studies, and relieved their necessities. For several years prior to his decease, he had retired from business, and passed his retirement in the cultivation of that talent for poetry, which he ever valued as the companion of his solitude, the ornament and solace of active life. His heart was warm and benevolent, his conduct virtuous and unoffending, and his fortitude and resignation under long-continued bodily indisposition, were manly and exemplary.

Melancholy Consequences of the late Inundations in Holland.

THE effects of the inundations and storms in the beginning of February and the last days of January, in Holland, have been dreadful beyond all conception. More than fourteen large villages and hamlets have been destroyed, together with some hundreds of men, women, children, and cattle. The dykes in several places having given way, and the thaw having dislocated large quantities of ice, these bodies, being set in motion, had loosened houses, trees, &c. &c. from their foundations, and borne them along with irresistible force into the ocean, or 'till the whole was separated or dashed in pieces. It was no uncommon thing to see houses carried upon the surface of the water, and driving along upon the torrent, while the unfortunate inhabitants were in vain imploring that aid which was seldom able to succour them, or resist the force of the devouring elements. Numbers of persons have lost their all, and many have been saved by the brave and benevolent exertions of others.

Even as high as Wesel, the country had suffered in a very great proportion; among other events made public by the municipal officers of that place, it is mentioned that a young woman, whose mother and some of her neighbours had taken refuge from an inundation upon an eminence, had saved her parent at the certain risk of her own life, swimming with her upon her back, up to her shoulders in water; but, lamentable to say, this heroic young woman returning twice more to the same spot, to save a poor woman with two children (she had saved two persons besides her own mother before), a fresh sea poured in, and swept her away with the victims she came to rescue.

At Gorinchem, the town itself was in very great danger, in consequence of a breach made in the dyke near that place. The king of Holland with some of his Dutch officers were upon the spot, and by their example in encouraging the people to exert themselves in pulling up the stones to throw into the dyke; after four hours hard labour, during which the town magazine was emptied of all the beds, mattrasses, sails, and every thing of a bulky nature, they were fortunate enough to keep the water out of the place, though not 'till some houses in the environs were washed away. Louis Bonaparte, the king of Holland, stood up to his middle in water during the whole of this time, giving directions and assisting with his own hands; and was an eye witness to the circumstance of a Jewess's jumping out of her window, with a child in her arms, up to the neck in water. The king gave the parson of Liendeck, twenty ducats to distribute immediately amohg the poorest of the people, and offered premiums to those persons who should exexert themselves in saving the lives of others.

DESCRIPTION *of the* SPOTTED HYENA.

THE spotted hyena is very common at the Cape of Good Hope, where the inhabitants call it the tiger-wolf. Dr. Sparrman describes it as a formidable, mischievous, and cruel animal. The Hottentots were formerly much molested by them, as they were often so bold as to attack their huts, and carry off their children; but the introduction of fire-arms has put an end to such depredations. It is certain, however, that numbers of these animals attend almost every dark night about the shambles at the Cape, to carry off the offals and bones left there by the inhabitants, who take care never to disturb their scavengers. The dogs too, who at other times are in perpetual enmity with them, never then molest them; and it is remarked, that they are seldom known to do any mischief on these occasions. The howlings of the hyena are dreadful and alarming, beyond description; and an ingenious writer* observes, that "perhaps nature has kindly impressed this involuntary disposition to yelling upon this animal, that every living creature might be on its guard, and secure it from the attacks of so cruel an enemy." Whatever the physical reason may be, it appears that a disposition to yelling, or howling, in the night, is absolutely implanted in this animal by nature, as a young one, which Dr. Sparrman saw at the Cape, though it had been brought up tame by a Chinese resident there, and was then chained, was said to be silent in the day time, but very often in the

* Bewick's Quadrupeds.

the night was heard to emit the yelling cry peculiar to its species. In compensation for this faculty, by which the animal is, as it were, obliged to give warning of its own approach, it is, on the other hand, actually possessed of a power to imitate, in some degree, the cries of other animals; by which means it often succeeds in deceiving and attracting lambs, calves, foals, &c.

The peasants in the neighbourhood of the Cape of Good Hope say, that this animal is possessed of great sagacity; and that a party of them, half flying and half defending themselves, will decoy a whole pack of dogs to follow them to the distance of a gun-shot or two from the farm, with a design to give the rest of their companions an opportunity to come out from their retreat, and carry off sufficient booty both for themselves and their flying brethren, before the dogs can return to prevent them. The voracious gluttony of this animal, is a striking instance of the provident care of the Great Creator, who has furnished it with a disposition to consume every animal substance it meets with. Were it not for the ravenous and insatiable appetite of the tiger-wolf, the flowery fields of the Cape would soon become loathsome, and disfigured with the carcases of all kinds of game, which graze and die there successively: they serve likewise to keep up the necessary equilibrium in the increase of the animal kingdom, so that it may not exceed the supplies afforded it by the vegetable part of the creation. Dr. Sparrman relates a story of this animal, the truth of which he does not vouch; it is, however, diverting enough, therefore no apology is requisite for introducing it. One night, at a feast, near the Cape, a trumpeter, who had got himself well filled with liquor, was carried out of doors, in order to cool and sober him. The scent of him soon attracted a tiger-wolf, which threw him on his back, and dragged him along with him like a corpse, and, consequently, a fair prize, up towards Table Mountain. Meantime, however, our drunken musician awaked, sufficiently sensible to know the danger of his situation, and to sound the alarm with his trumpet, which he carried fastened to his side. The wild beast, as may easily be imagined, was not less frightened in his turn. Any person but a trumpeter, in such a situation, would doubtless have furnished the tiger-wolf with a supper.

History of the Priory of Bermondsey, in Surrey.

ALTHOUGH Leland, Stow, and others, place the foundation of the priory here at an earlier time, it appears from the best accounts that it was founded in the year 1082 by Alwin Child, a citizen of London. Some indeed have ascribed

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it to the Conqueror himself, who probably countenanced and promoted it; others to William Rufus, whose benefactions, it must be owned, were considerable: but the first steps seem to have been taken by Child, however inconsiderable the advances he was able to make in it.

In the Domesday Survey, the church is called "nova et pulchra ecclesia."

Child's first work was the foundation of a church, dedicated to our Saviour, on the south of, and contiguous to the spot on which the present parochial church of St. Mary Magdalen is situated. To this he annexed a convent of Cluniac monks, sent hither in the year 1089, at the instance of Lanfranc archbishop of Canterbury, from the priory of La Charité sur la Loire, to which it accordingly became subordinate as a cell.

In the 45th of Edward III. it was sequestered, among other alien priories, to the use of the crown; but re-established by Richard in the second year of his reign; who also, two years afterwards, in consideration of a fine of two hundred marks, enfranchised it, thereby enabling the members of it to purchase and possess land in their own right, and to their own proper use and benefit: and about eighteen years after, in 1399, he converted it into an abbey.

The estates belonging to this priory were by no means inconsiderable, being of the extended value of at least three thousand pounds a year of our present currency.

Their smaller parcels of land, and rent-charges, we omit. Among the most material of their manors are those of Preston, near Yeovil, and Kynmardeston, in Somersetshire; Charlton, in Kent; Quickbury, in the parish of Shering, Essex; and Bermondsey. In the neighbourhood of London, the manor of Brocksbourn; first a moiety, and afterwards the whole, of Rotherhithe; the manor of Dulwich, in Camberwell; and the manor of West-Greenwich, or Deptford.

Among their spiritualities was the advowson of St. Saviour's, Bermondsey, given them by King William II. in 1091; that of St. George, in Southwark, by Thomas Ardern, in 1122; the rectory of Rotherhithe, in the same year; that of Camberwell, in Surrey, by William, earl of Gloucester, in 1154; and Bedington, in 1159. From 1321 'till the dissolution of the convent, the monks presented to the rectory of St. George, in Botolph-lane. In 1322 they became possessed of the advowson of St. Andrew's, Holborn: from the same period 'till the dissolution they had the alternate presentation to St. Magnus, London-bridge; and in 1390 they obtained a grant of the rectory of Croydon.

The list of priors is a long one; it may be enough to say, that the forty-seven first were foreigners; and that Richard Denton,

Denton, or Dunton, was the first Englishman who filled the office, in 1372. Under his administration, in 1380, the monks were released from their subjection to the alien priory in Normandy: he rebuilt the cloister and refectory: and was a great benefactor to the priory. On his resignation, in 1390, John Attelburgh was elected; who having procured the priory to be erected into an abbacy, and himself created the first abbot, by Pope Boniface IX. in 1399, resigned his charge.

The subsequent abbots were,

1399. Henry Tomson.
1413. Thomas Thetford.
1432. John Bromlegh.
1473. John de Marlow.
1520. Robert Wharton, alias Parfew.

The last of whom, having been consecrated bishop of St. Asaph in 1536, surrendered his abbey to the king the year following, and in 1554 was translated to the see of Hereford.

Its revenue, at the surrender, according to what appears the best estimate, was 548l. 2s. 5½d.

About three years and a half afterwards (the 8th of July, 1541,) the site was granted to Sir Robert Southwell: soon after which the church was taken down by Sir Thomas Pope, by whom it had been purchased.

The few relics which are now seen of Bermondsey Abbey exhibit little more than some scattered portions of its outer walls. At the north-west corner, however, of what is now known by the name of King John's Court, stands one of the abbey-gates.

Of the internal state and history of the foundation we know little or nothing, the annals of the house having perished in the general wreck of its fortunes. The court, however, appears occasionally to have made use of it for their meetings on affairs of state. At Christmas, 1154, Henry II. immediately after his first coronation, treated here with his nobles on the state of the kingdom. In the reign of Henry III. many of the nobility having taken the cross upon them, met at this house to deliberate on the order of their journey. Catherine, the queen of Henry V. either for devotion or safety, retired here, where she died January 3, 1437. Elizabeth, also, the queen of Edward IV. was confined to this house by her son-in-law, King Henry VII. in 1486, where she died soon after.

GOLD MINES *in* FRANCE.

THE existence of gold-mines in France, was long questioned, even in that country, but it is now well known, that what was formerly the province of Dauphiné, possesses

several of that description. These mines are of two different kinds, some affording native gold, others containing this metal mixed, or so intimately combined with different metallic substances, that its presence is to be detected only by the assay. The native gold-mines in the above-mentioned province are: that of la Gardette, that of Dormillouse, or la Freissiniere; those of Orel, and the auriferous sands of the Rhone. Dormillouse is situated in the present department of the Upper Alps, and Orel in the department of the Drôme.

The mountain of Gardette rises above the village of the same name, four miles south of the town of Oisans. Its mine was included in the circle of mines, granted to Stanislaus, count of Provence, brother of Louis XVI. by a decree of the council of state. This mountain, which is 1410 yards above the sea, has at its foot a perpendicular cliff, above 220 yards in height. Its base is a reddish granite, composed of red feltspar, green steatitic quartz, and grey mica. Above this is a laminar quartz rock, of a blackish grey. This micaceous rock, in which the gold is found, is covered by a secondary lime-stone, which forms the whole of the upper part of the mountain. This is of a deep blue grey, and contains belemnites and ammonites. The inclination and direction of its strata, vary greatly; but in general they incline to the north, at a greater or less angle, which appears to be determined by the slope of the primitive rock, on which the lime-stone rests. The vein of la Gardette, is quartz in mass crystallized, wherever the siliceous matter has not been sufficient to fill the whole of the vein. It is enchased in gneiss. Its direction is west north-west, its dip to the south 80°; its thickness varies from two to three feet and upwards. Its length has been ascertained for about 500 yards from the foot to the summit of the mountain.

An ANECDOTE.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON had a great abhorrence of infidelity, and never failed to reprove those who made free with revelation in his presence, of which the following is an instance. Dr. Halley was sceptically inclined, and sometimes took the liberty of sporting with the scriptures. On such an occasion, Sir Isaac said to him—"Dr. Halley, I am always glad to hear you when you speak about astronomy, or other parts of mathematics, because that is a subject which you have studied, and well understand; but you should not tattle of Christianity, for you have not studied it; I have, and know you know nothing of the matter."

An ANECDOTE.

NIDHARD was a German jesuit, who accompanied the Arch-Duchess Maria to Spain, when she married Philip the Fourth. That monarch made him his confidant and minister, which occasioned many disputes between the jesuit and his rival the duke of Lerma, to whom Nidhard once said—"It is you that ought to respect me, as I have every day your god in my hand, and your queen at my feet." He was a miserable minister, and brought the affairs of the nation to a very poor condition.

Astonishing Increase of a single Grain of Wheat.

THE following account is given by the gardener of the Rev. Dr. Drake, of Amersham, respecting the extraordinary produce of a single grain of wheat in the garden of that gentleman.

"On the 1st day of August, I sowed, or rather set, a single grain of red wheat; and in the latter end of September, when the plant had tillered, I took it up, and slipped or divided it into four sets or slips. Those four sets I planted, and they grew and tillered as well as the first. In the end of November I took them up a second time, and made thirty-six plants or sets. These I again planted, which grew 'till March, in which month I, a third time, took up my plants, and divided them into 256 plants or sets. For the remaining part of the summer, 'till the month of August, they had nothing done to them, except hoeing the ground clean from the weeds, 'till the corn was ripe. When it was gathered, I had the ears counted, or numbered, and they were 3511, a great part of which proved as good grain as ever grew out of the earth. Many of the ears measured six inches in length, some very middling grains, some very light and thin. This was the reason I did not number the grains; but there was better than half a bushel of corn in the whole produce of this one grain of wheat in one year."

Would not this practice (spring planting) be of great use where the crops miss by various accidents incident to farming?

A QUESTION, *by W. J. of Noss Revelstoke School, near Plymouth.*

FIND two numbers, to whose sum, if you add 8, the whole will be double the greater; and if you subtract 45 from their difference, the remainder will be half the lesser.

Answer, by J. Melhuish, of Honiton, to W. D. Champion's Charade, inserted February 13.

WHEN baleful DISCORD spreads its venom far,
And stirs up men 'gainst other men to war,
What scenes of blood and carnage then abound,
And heaps of dead and dying strew the ground!

*** Similar answers have been received from S. N. of Tatworth; and T. Pearse, of Chard.

Answer, by J. Trood, of Bridgewater, to J. Treadwin's Charade, inserted February 20.

WHEN fellow-mortals are with ills beset,
Or thrown in prison for some trivial debt,
Then men of FEELING, with ingenuous heart,
Step forth, and act the genuine Christian's part;
Inspir'd by motives of kind charity,
Relieve their wants, and set the captives free.

☞ A similar answer has been received from W. D. Champion, and H. B. of Bridgewater; R. Loosemore, of Tiverton; J. W. of Charmouth; J. Woodman, of North Curry; J. Ball, and J. French, at Evershot school; D. G. of Hinton St. George; J. Melhuish; C. Crews, of Newton Abbot; and W. Kent, near Camelford.

A REBUS, *by W. Kent, near Camelford.*

THREE numerals with a vowel join,
One of the muses they'll define.

A REBUS, *by H. B. of Bridgewater.*

YE youths, so renown'd for your fame,
In rhyming and poetic wit,
Three-fourths of a vessel pray name,
The first of my theme for to hit;
Then if you my second would find,
A weight of importance you'll view:
Those parts, when together combin'd,
Will shew what's worn often by you.

A REBUS, *by W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater.*

SYMPHONIOUS first, thy thrilling music charms
The list'ning soul, and ev'ry vital warms;
Thy strains can soothe the troubled mind to rest,
And chase dull care from man's desponding breast.

When, in the west, is sunk the glorious orb,
And night spreads o'er the earth her shadowy garb,
My beauteous next ascends the spangled sky,
And sheds her silver radiance from on high.

One letter of my last must be refus'd,
You'll then descry an instrument that's us'd
In those wild regions, near the bleak north pole,
Where waves heave high, and icy mountains roll.